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# HIGHER EDUCATION IN POLAND, 1945-1955

[Comment: The following information was selected from Polish periodicals, newspapers, and monographs to indicate the quantitative growth of higher education in postwar Poland, 1945-1955. The report represents information taken from available sources to supplement information already reported on this subject.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Total Number of Higher Schools and Higher-School Students

At the end of the Three-Year Plan [1949], about 97,000 workers with higher education were employed in the socialist economy. At the end of the Six-Year Plan [1955], over 200,000 persons with higher education will be employed in the national economy. (1) The Six-Year Plan alone calls for a total of 146,000 higher-education graduates. Henryk Golanski, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, stated in the January issue of the organ of the Ministry of Higher Education that "the planned fulfillment of the organ of the Ministry of Higher Education that "the planned fulfillment of the Six-Year Plan for training cadres with a higher education will not be far from the 145,000 figure, a figure deemed fantastic by some skeptics 5 years ago." (2)

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The following table gives a yearly breakdown of the total number of higher schools and the number of students attending.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Higher Schools</u>	<u>Higher-School Students</u>
1944-45	12 (data incomplete)(3)	18,500 (data incomplete)(3)
1945-46	30 (3)	55,502 (3)
1946-47	35 (25 academic and 10 non-academic) (4)	84,680* (4)
1947-48	36 (25 academic and 11 non-academic) (4)	94,586** (5)
1948-49	52 (6)	Over 100,000 (6)
1949-50	72 (6)	116,000 (6)
1950-51	[figures unavailable]	[figures unavailable]
1951-52	83 (7)	124,000 (7)
1952-53	84 (9)	133,800 (9)
1953-54	[figures unavailable]	[figures unavailable]***
1954-55	84 (10)	131,000 (10)

\* 75,963 in academic schools and 8,717 in nonacademic schools. According to the statistical yearbook for 1949 (5), the total figure was 86,360, which included candidates for doctorates, auditors, and students in preparatory courses (studia wstepne).

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\*\* Includes candidates for doctorates, auditors, and students in preparatory courses.

\*\*\* Kalendarz Robotniczy for 1954 (published in January 1954) states that 136,000 students were studying in higher schools in 1953, which could mean either the 1952-1953 or the 1953-1954 school year.

In 1955, the total number of students (day, correspondence, and night courses) will increase 4 percent over 1954. The deciding factor in this increase will be the rapid development of correspondence (zaoczne) courses, especially in technical studies.(2)

#### Number of Students Entering Higher Schools Each Year

The number of students that entered higher schools for the school year 1947-1948 was 30,090, of which 21,296 entered state higher schools and 8,794 entered private higher schools.(11)

On 1 October, about 7,975 students began the 1952-1953 academic year in higher agricultural schools, about 16,280 in economic courses, about 4,000 in ten medical academies, and about 4,000 in six higher pedagogic schools.(9)

Over 40,000 students were enrolled for the 1954-1955 academic year.(2)

#### Number of Students in Higher Schools by Fields of Study

The following number of students in higher schools were studying medicine during the school years indicated: 10,476 in 1945-1946, 14,084 in 1946-1947, and 16,076 in 1947-1948.(5) In the school year 1951-1952, the number of medical students in medical academies increased 15.5 percent over 1950-1951. In 1953, there were about 23,000 students studying in medical academies.(12) In 1954, there were 23,704 students studying medical sciences, of which 9,738 were men and 13,966 were women.(13)

The number of students in other fields of study during 3 school years was as follows:

	<u>1945-46</u>	<u>1946-47</u>	<u>1947-48</u>
Mathematics and Natural Sciences	5,278	7,661	7,287
Technical	12,475	16,367	18,970
Agriculture	3,129	4,989	5,554(5)

During the 1949-1950 school year, there were 25,620 students in higher technical schools.(14) By 1952, Poland had 33,000 students in polytechnics and 11,000 in evening engineering schools.(15)

The Evening Engineering Schools of NOT (Naczelna Organizacja Techniczna, Chief Technical Organization) have increased their schools and enrollment as follows: 2 schools and 610 students in 1948-1949, 2 schools and 1,303 students in 1949-1950, 9 schools and 3,000 students in 1950-1951, and 10 schools with about 10,000 students in 1951-1952. During the Six-Year Plan, these schools will add about 7,000-8,000 engineers to the national economy.(16) About 3,300 persons also will complete correspondence courses for engineering degrees during the Six-Year Plan.(17)

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In 1953, there were 36 students under the Ministry of Higher Education for every 10,000 of the total population. This figure was broken down as follows: 19.1 students in technical schools, 7.2 university students (excluding higher pedagogical schools), 4 students in agricultural schools, and 5.7 students in economics schools (18)

#### Total Number of Higher-School Graduates

The number of graduates of higher schools during past school years has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
1944-45	2,112 (1,864 lower diplomas [BS equivalent], 211 higher diplomas [MS equivalent], 37 certified foreign diplomas) (3)
1945-46	4,295 (3,860 lower diplomas, 233 higher diplomas, 202 certified foreign diplomas) (3)
1946-47	3,956 (3,632 lower diplomas, 324 higher diplomas) (5)
1947-48	4,539 (4,143 lower diplomas, 396 higher diplomas) (5)
1948-49	4,597 (provisional data -- 42,270 lower diplomas, 327 higher diplomas) (5)
1954-55	23,000 (19)

The last-mentioned figure above gives the total number of students who completed studies at higher technical, agricultural, and economics schools and at universities. Besides this, many also completed studies at medical academies and higher schools of art. (19) Previously, however, it had been stated that 17,000 students of higher schools would be taking examinations in June 1955. (20)

A total of 70,000 students graduated from higher schools between the year 1945 and 1954. (13)

#### Number of Higher-School Graduates by Fields of Study

The Six-Year Plan calls for 59,000 graduates of higher technical schools. (24) By the end of 1955, it is planned that higher education will have supplied the national economy and cultural institutions with 48,000 engineers, 20,000 economists, and 6,000 agricultural graduates. (13)

The actual picture is as follows: by 1954, higher technical schools graduated 20,000 students and will graduate 17,000 more in the following 2 years. (13)

The following figures are given for specific years. During the 1945-1946 school year there were 906 graduates of higher technical courses, 216 graduates of agricultural courses, 1,240 medical graduates, and 868 graduates in mathematics and natural sciences. During the 1946-1947 school year, there were 691 graduates of higher technical courses, 325 in agriculture, 1,648 in medicine, and 908 in mathematics and natural sciences. (5) About 12,000 new engineers, including those with master's degrees, will start work in various industries in 1955. (19)

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Number of Practicing Scientists, Engineers, and Physicians

In 1949, about 21,622 scientific workers were working in scientific institutions and higher schools.(1) In 1950, there were 50 research institutions employing 5,000 scientific workers.

At the end of 1949, about 7,000 out of a total of 15,000 engineers were employed in industry, i.e., seven engineers for every 1,000 workers. The Six-Year Plan expects to double this figure to 14 engineers for every 1,000 workers in industry.(21) In October 1950, NOT had a membership of 32,614 engineers, and in July 1951, a membership of 57,950.(6)

In 1947, Poland had an average of 3.3 physicians for every 10,000 persons, and in 1951, 4.6 physicians for every 10,000 persons.(23)

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